

What is claimed is:

1. A data communications apparatus for communicating in accordance with two or more communications protocols, comprising:

    a core portion, the core portion being substantially independent of the two or more communications protocols; and

    a peripheral portion, the peripheral portion being coupled to the core portion and including:

        an ingress, and

        an egress,

    wherein the peripheral portion is configurable to receive at the ingress data communications in accordance with the two or more communications protocols and to transmit at the egress data communications in accordance with the two or more communications protocols.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the peripheral portion includes a translation device.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the peripheral portion includes an adaptation device.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the translation device translates a first data format into a second data format.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the adaptation device selectively adapts to one of a first error protection scheme and a second error protection scheme.
6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first and second data formats
7. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first error protection scheme comprises parity and the second error protection scheme comprises error correction.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the two or more communications protocols comprise the spatial reuse protocol (SRP) and the resilient packet ring (RPR) protocol.